

**BEFORE THE PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION
STATE OF MISSOURI**

In the Matter of the Request from the Customers in the)
Rockaway Beach Exchange for an Expanded Calling) Case No. TO-2003-0257
Scope to Make Toll-Free Calls to Branson.)

JOINT RESPONSE TO ORDER DIRECTING FILING

COME NOW the Office of the Public Counsel (“Public Counsel”) and CenturyTel of Missouri, LLC (“CenturyTel”), and for their Joint Response to the Commission’s Order Directing Filing respectfully state as follows:

1. As noted in the Commission's Order Directing Filing entered in this matter on January 30, 2006, Public Counsel filed its Status Report on January 17, 2006, in which it requested a public hearing in Rockaway Beach. The Staff of the Commission replied on January 24, 2006, claiming that Public Counsel's request is premature, and that Public Counsel should first file its final recommendation in this proceeding. In its Order, the Commission directed that Public Counsel and CenturyTel "respond to the Staff Response to the Office of the Public Counsel's Status Report no later than February 9, 2006."

2. For their Joint Response, Public Counsel and CenturyTel respectfully request that the Commission refrain from ruling on Public Counsel's pending request for a public hearing at this time, and that the Commission deny Staff's suggested procedural step of requiring Public Counsel to file a final recommendation at this stage of the proceeding.

3. CenturyTel is offering a new optional calling plan to its residential customers in the subject exchanges, identical to the plan discussed in the Innsbruck

public hearing held in Case No. TO-2005-0141. Indeed, a “Rockaway Beach Area Customer Appreciation Event” hosted by CenturyTel is now scheduled for February 16, 2006, at the Rockaway Beach Community Center to help publicize the availability of the new packaged plan. Local print and radio media are being utilized regarding this community event. In fact, a representative(s) of the Office of the Public Counsel plans on attending.

4. Whereas the availability of this optional calling plan may address many, if not all, of the issues associated with this proceeding, Public Counsel and CenturyTel request that Public Counsel be allowed to file a Status Report within sixty (60) days, advising the Commission of proposed procedural recommendations at that time.

WHEREFORE, the Office of the Public Counsel and CenturyTel of Missouri, LLC respectfully submit their Joint Response to the Commission’s Order Directing Filing.

Respectfully submitted,

OFFICE OF THE PUBLIC COUNSEL

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And

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CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I do hereby certify that a true and correct copy of the foregoing document has been hand-delivered, transmitted by e-mail or mailed, First Class, postage prepaid, to all counsel of record this 9th day of February, 2006.

/s/ Larry W. Dority

Larry W. Dority